

# Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine Site Screen Report

*This form is for use at the site of abandoned uranium mines (AUM) located on Navajo Nation lands. Applicable sites include all mine and mine features that have or have not undergone reclamation by the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program, including features, adits and pits. Applicable sites also include all AUM sites listed in the USEPA CERCLIS database, all sites listed in the 2008 AUM GIS Report issued by USACOE and USEPA, all AUM sites on allotment lands associated with the Navajo Nation, and any and all AUM sites lands not listed in any database located on Navajo lands. Reconnaissance of any sites located on lands adjacent to Navajo lands but that are or may be impacting Navajo lands will need to be coordinated with the authorities appropriate to those lands.*

*The purpose of the form is to ascertain the status and location of the identified AUM site, to record all immediate site information associated with the mine site and to document the recommendation and/or decision on what additional steps, if any, are needed at the site.*

## **Blue Peak AUM Site**

## **Navajo AUM Eastern Region**

**Prepared by:**

**Weston Solutions, Inc.**

**Contract: W91238-06-F-0083**

**12767.063.496.1111**

**May 2009**

**Part I Site Identification, Location and Status****Site Names and ID numbers as applicable****Mine ID:** 361**Map ID:** E89**CERCLIS:** NOT ASSIGNED**NAMLRP:** NOT ASSIGNED**New Mexico Mining and Mineral Division ID:** NM0085**New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources:** NNMK0018**Local name / Aliases:** Garcia No. 1-5, Red Top No. 1-10, Section 24**New Mexico MMD District:** Ambrosia Lake**Lat/Long:** 35.3412858567 N / -107.843643825 W**Nearby road and highway:** Haystack Road / NM-334 **Local Post Office:** Prewitt, NM**Land Status: check one or more and provide ownership and contact information below**

<b>Tribal Trust Land</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Tribal Fee Land</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Allotment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Fee land</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Public lands</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Private</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Bureau of Land Mgmt</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>State</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Ownership and contact information:**

No ownership was identified. The mine site property is classified as Bureau of Land Management land. Due to locked gates and private property, Weston was unable to access the mine site.

## **Part II            Site Observations**

**Observed Structures: list number of and describe human habitation status of structures at the following distances from mine:**

**0 to 200 feet:** None                      **200 feet to 0.25 mile:** None

**Observed Public or commercial structure: list and describe all schools, clinics, Chapter Houses, places of business and any other structure used by members of the community at the following distances:**

**0 to 200 feet:** None                      **200 feet to 0.25 mile:** None

**Levels measured around the perimeter(s) of the identified structure(s):**

None

**Observed water sources: list the number and type of wells and surface water sources that are potentially used for human consumption at the following distances from the mine:**

**0 to 0.25 miles:** None                      **0.25 miles to 4 miles:** None

**Sensitive environments: note and describe all sensitive environments located within visible range of the mine site, including: wetlands, endangered species habitats and approximate locations of sites that may be under protection of the government of the Navajo Nation.**

None observed

**Known Site History: include information from interviews with Chapter officials and residents. Note information on mine ownership, period of operation, and type of mining operation.**

Blue Peak mine consists of a surface area of 25,638.86 square meters with an additional 13,310.87 square meters of underground workings. Any historical information pertaining to mining operations and historical ownership of the mine site appeared to be unclear. The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division identified the operator from 1951-1952 as Blue Peak Mining; 1953 as Shattuck Denn Mining Corp.; 1955 as St. Michael's College Foundation, Inc. - Shawano Operation; 1955-1957 as Colohoma Uranium, Inc.; 1957-1958 as Three Jacks Mining Co.; 1959-1960 as Farris Mining Co.; and 1960-1961 as Lloyd O. Sutton.

**Part III      Type, number and reclamation status of mine features**

**Provide description and reclamation status of all mine sites and features at site. Include all waste piles, adits, pits and other features, and indicate whether they are open, closed, covered, capped, buried or unreclaimed. Indicate approximate size, shape and extent, including description of any reclamation caps. Note condition of all reclamation caps.**

Reclamation status of the mine site is currently unknown. Due to locked gates and private property, Weston was unable to access the mine site. According to the New Mexico Mining and Mineral division, contractors dismantled the timber loadout and backfilled 5 adits with on-site mine waste in 1990.

**Part IV      Summary of radiological readings**

**Note:** Due to locked gates and private property, Weston was unable to access the mine site.

**Background Locations** - None

**Mine site:** Blue Peak  
- See Figure 1

**Nearby Structure Perimeter** – None

**Describe any other radiological measurements:**

Radiological measurements collected for the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division during a 2008 field screening survey found gamma radiation levels near the ground surface with a maximum of 140 micro Roentgen per hour ( $\mu\text{R/hr}$ ) and a minimum of 50  $\mu\text{R/hr}$ , and levels at the 4-foot elevation with a maximum of 140  $\mu\text{R/hr}$  and a minimum of 36  $\mu\text{R/hr}$ .

**Part V            Site sketch of all mine features and readings, including locations of all structures, sources of potential drinking water and any other important features and radiological readings.**

Presented in Figure 1

## **Part VI        Response Action Summary**

**Site Name(s):** Blue Peak

**New Mexico MMD District:** Ambrosia Lake

### **Decision Criteria**

**Is there an unreclaimed waste pile at the site?** None observed

**At what distance from the waste pile is the nearest residential structure located?** N/A

**At what distances from the waste pile are there potential drinking water sources?** N/A

**Is there a reclamation cap or sealed adit in place at the site?** None observed

**Is the cap/seal functionally intact?** N/A

**Is the cap/seal sufficiently degraded to create a concern about releases?** N/A

**At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic structure located?** N/A

**At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest potential drinking water source?** N/A

### **Summary of emergency response factors**

None

### **Summary hazard ranking system factors**

None

### **Summary of reclamation factors**

Reclamation status of the mine site is currently unknown

## Part VII      Photos



Photo 1. Locked gate on road leading towards Blue Peak mine site



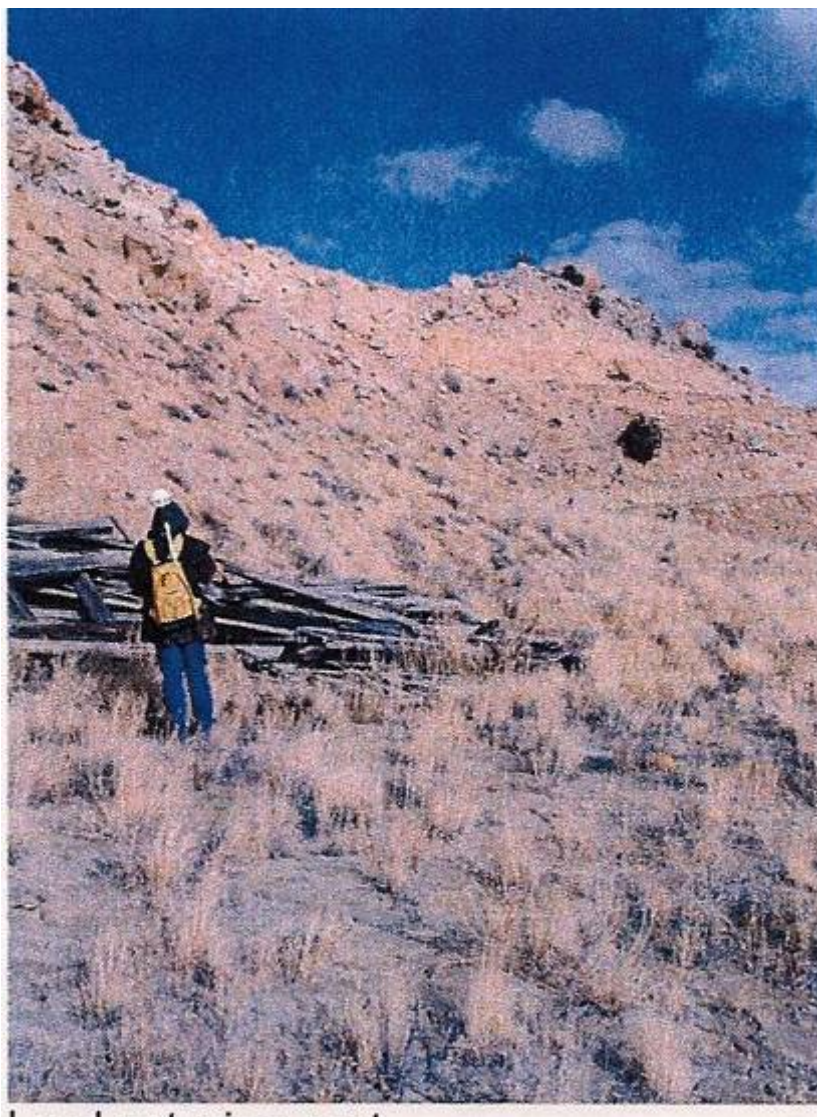
Photo 2. Private property leading towards Blue Peak mine site



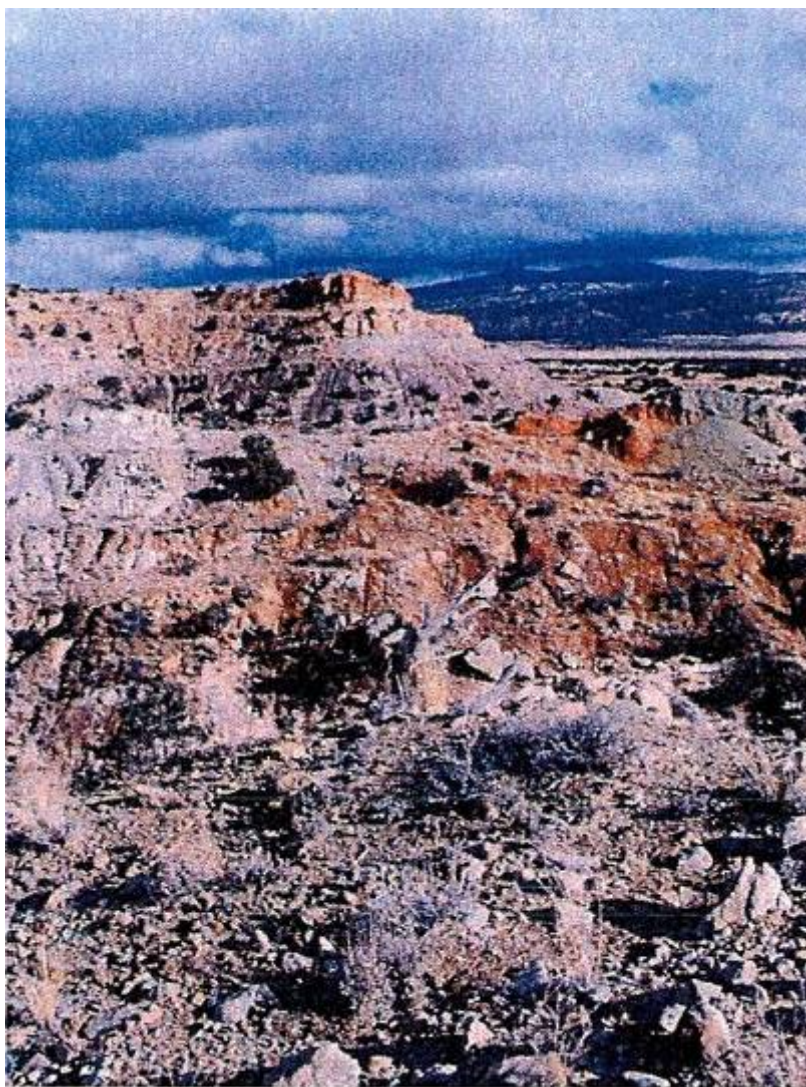
Photo 3. Fenced area leading towards Blue Peak mine site



**The following photos were collected during a 2008 field survey for the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division:**



Load-out, view east

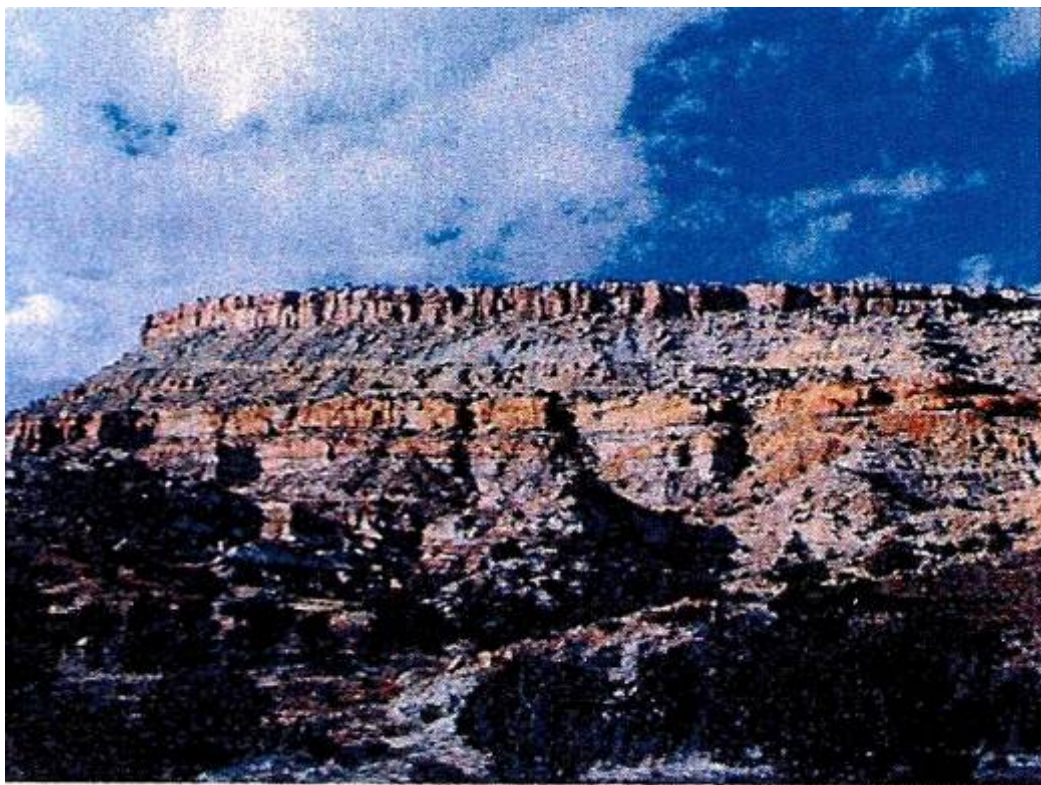


Mid-level, view east





Panorama of mine



View to west

**Part VIII      Contacts Reports and Information**

Name Susan A. Lucas Kamat

Title or official role (if any) AUM Data Manager – New Mexico Mining & Mineral Division

Telephone number (505) 476-3408 fx: (505) 476-3408

Information provided Background information and findings from 2008 New Mexico MMD  
Survey of mining sites.

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Name Dana Bahar

Title or official role (if any) Manager, Superfund Oversight Section

Ground Water Quality Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department

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Information provided General Background Information

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Name Mary Ann Menetrey

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